

Senate Resolution No. 37
Introduced by Senator Lowenthal

Relative to Long Beach Municipal Band Week

WHEREAS, The Long Beach Municipal Band is the oldest municipally funded professional concert band in the United States. Astonishingly, in its 100-year history the band has performed over 57,000 concerts and over 1 million pieces of music. As in previous times of social, political, and economic crisis (World War I, The Great Depression, the 1933 Earthquake, World War II, the Recession of the 1970's) the Long Beach Municipal Band as a public institution has responded enthusiastically to the needs of its community; and

WHEREAS, In 1909, the Long Beach City Council passed legislation creating the Long Beach Municipal Band to promote tourism and entertain citizens; and

WHEREAS, First conductor E. Harry Willey organized tours of the western United States to promote the city, including concerts at the San Francisco World's Fair; and

WHEREAS, From 1915 to 1920, the band performed at the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, as well as the county fairs in Riverside and Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, With the onset of World War I the band assumed a prominent role in California's war effort, performing regularly at fundraising concerts in support of the military; and

WHEREAS, In 1923, Herbert L. Clarke, assistant conductor of the world famous John Philip Sousa Band, became director of the Long Beach Municipal Band. Mr. Clarke's first concert was on November 30, 1923, and over 3,000 people packed the Long Beach Auditorium to greet their new conductor; and

WHEREAS, During the Great Depression the Long Beach Municipal Band's free concerts gave the citizens a much appreciated escape from the bleak realities of the time; and

WHEREAS, On March 10, 1933, a 6.25 magnitude earthquake, lasting 11 seconds, destroyed much of Long Beach. The Long Beach Municipal Band played concerts day and night, raising the morale of

the many displaced families who were living in shelters throughout the city's parks; and

WHEREAS, When the United States entered into World War II the Long Beach Municipal Band accepted the patriotic call, boosting morale by performing at USO functions, bond rallies, military sites, and for every troop deployment from the Long Beach Naval Yard; and

WHEREAS, In 1949 the Long Beach Municipal Band hosted the American Bandmasters Association's National Convention. That same year, the band performed its 20,000th concert and the mayor of the city of Long Beach officially declared the date, "Municipal Band Day" in Long Beach; and

WHEREAS, In 1950 the Long Beach Municipal Band began performing school concerts thereby exposing over 49,000 students to live music each academic year; and

WHEREAS, The passage of Proposition 13 in 1977 necessitated that the band limit the number of concert performances from 700 to only 60 per year. With citizen support, the solicitation of private funds began, forming the cooperative private and public funding model which allows the ensemble to exist today; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, current conductor Larry Curtis took the Long Beach Municipal Band on its first performance outside city boundaries in over 30 years to the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) conference reestablishing the Long Beach Municipal Band's international reputation; and

WHEREAS, Today's Long Beach Municipal Band is musically healthy and performing strong for more people than at any other time in its illustrious history. Its summer schedule includes performing for an estimated 10,000 people over four concerts per week. As the years roll by the band's concerts take on additional meaning, harkening back to earlier times when life was less frantic, less competitive, more relaxed and the pace of daily living allowed more time for the contemplation and appreciation of small events in our day to day living. And the band plays on...; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the first week of July be proclaimed as the Long Beach Municipal Band Week; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

Senate Resolution No. 37 read and adopted by the Senate August 30, 2012.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate